

AS A contest, Wycombe's visit to Sandy Lane on Saturday ended almost before it had begun when the effervescent Len Worley shot Wanderers into a first minute lead.

After that, two points dropped all too easily into their lap as Tony Horseman jettisoned the challenge of Corinthian Casuals with a punishing "second" on 16 minutes.

The formalities completed, Wycombe eased back for a peaceful laze in the sun. And their hosts were 99 per cent powerless to do anything about a situation they must by now have learnt to both expect and accept.

The other one per cent? Well that popped up every now and then when the two-pronged but

blunt spearhead formed by Benest and Taberner grew slightly adventurous.

It was a threat however, monotonously stifled by an untested defence which quickly threw play back into the Casuals' territory.

Certainly right back, Bob Stephenson could not have wished for an easier baptism to Isthmian League football.

Wanderers' front runners should have, but somehow lacked the incentive to build up an embarrassingly high score.

Something for instance along the lines of the eight goals scored without reply when they annihilated the backenders of the competition 8-0 under the Loakes Park floodlights earlier this season.

It would nevertheless have proved absolutely nothing. Now under the charge of former England Youth boss, Pat Welton, the Corinthians were painfully outclassed.

By MIKE WHITESMAN

Corinthian Casuals 0, Wycombe Wanderers 2

They offered pluck and an innocent spirit whereas Brian Lee's championship contenders brushed them aside with polished ease.

Yet still Wanderers never bothered to try for top gear.

Hardly surprising therefore, the proceedings seemed dead, giving little cause for excitement among a pitifully meagre attendance which sprinkled the terraces and stand of the South London ground, Corinthians share with Tooting and Mitcham.

Indeed it is significant that an otherwise harmless incident in the 57th minute should have brought perhaps the loudest roar of a pedestrian 90 minutes.

Worley, receiving possession in an offside spot on the edge of the area, disregarded the referee's whistle and carried on regardless to hammer the ball up and out of the ground.

Thus the match meandered along.

Horseman, his interest aroused by the Worley inside-cross that he lashed at to put Wanderers two ahead, spent some of his time freely taking target practice, using the Casuals' agile keeper, Swain as the bull.

In the 34th minute he lined up a shot that had the look of number three until Swain re-directed it over the bar. And 22 minutes into the second period, a Horseman header found the guardians' waiting arms once more.

Two further cracks goalwards, the first slipped through to him by Barry Baker, had Wycombe's number ten bouncing shots off the barrier on either side of the home net as play entered the final 15 minute phase.

But, neither an exhilarating solo run from Worley nor a farewell drive angled in by Horseman could further the victory margin, although both did force the best out of Swain.